



# **Kentucky Communities working to achieve Health Equity ShareFEST**

**November 6-7 2017  
Kentucky History Center Frankfort KY**



**Kentucky Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# KY Office of Health Equity

- Established in Fall 2008
- Funded by the U.S. DHHS, Office of Minority Health and the KY Dept. for Public Health, REACH US, Cervical Cancer Free KY, and PHHSBG
- Overarching Goals:
  - To eliminate health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities, and rural and low income populations in the state of KY.
  - To promote health equity in the state of KY.

# “Health Equity”

## Healthy People 2020 definition

health equity as the “attainment of the highest level of health for all people. In working to achieve health equity, it requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities” –

*National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities. National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Minority Health, [April 2011]. Definition formulated by the FIHET for the National Stakeholder Strategy.*

# Health Equity

- According to health equity scholar Paula Braverman and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ***“Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.”***
- This requires removing obstacles to health such as **poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”**
- That measure must show the reduction and ultimate elimination of disparities in health and its determinants that adversely affect excluded or marginalized groups.

# Equality versus Equity

## Equality



## Equity



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# Health Equity

- Inequities exist across many dimensions:
  - Race
  - Income
  - Gender
  - Rural versus urban
  - Education level
  - Ethnicity
  - Immigration status
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Social Connectedness

# Achieving Health Equity

- Requires valuing ALL individuals and populations equally



- *Source: national partnership for Actions ongoing discussions 2009*



# Why is this important?

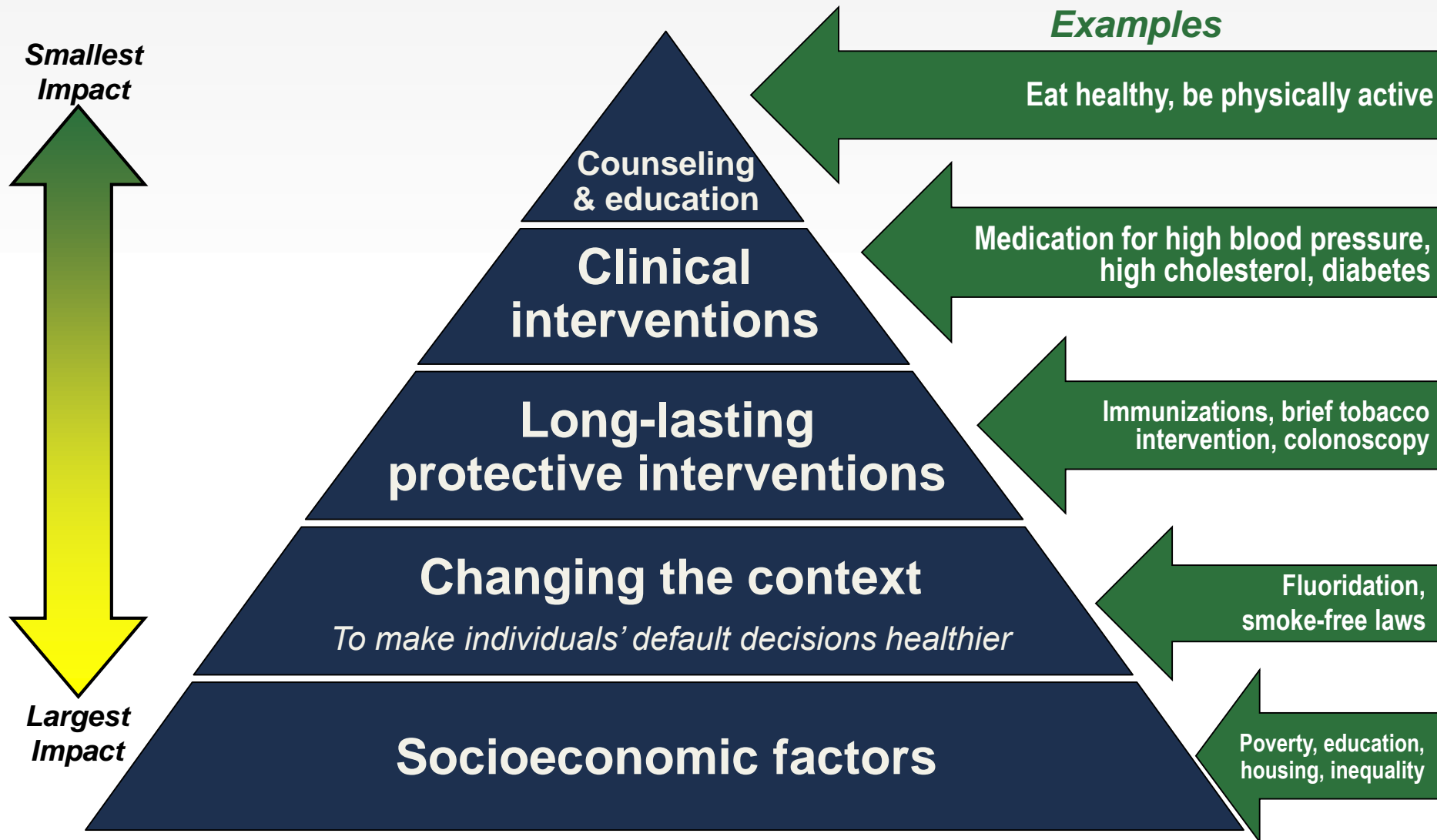


Nowhere are the divisions of race, ethnicity, and culture more sharply drawn than in the health of the people in the United States. Despite recent progress in overall national health, disparities continue in the incidence of illness and death among African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, as compared with the US population as a whole.

Source: [CDC NPIN Communities at Risk](#)

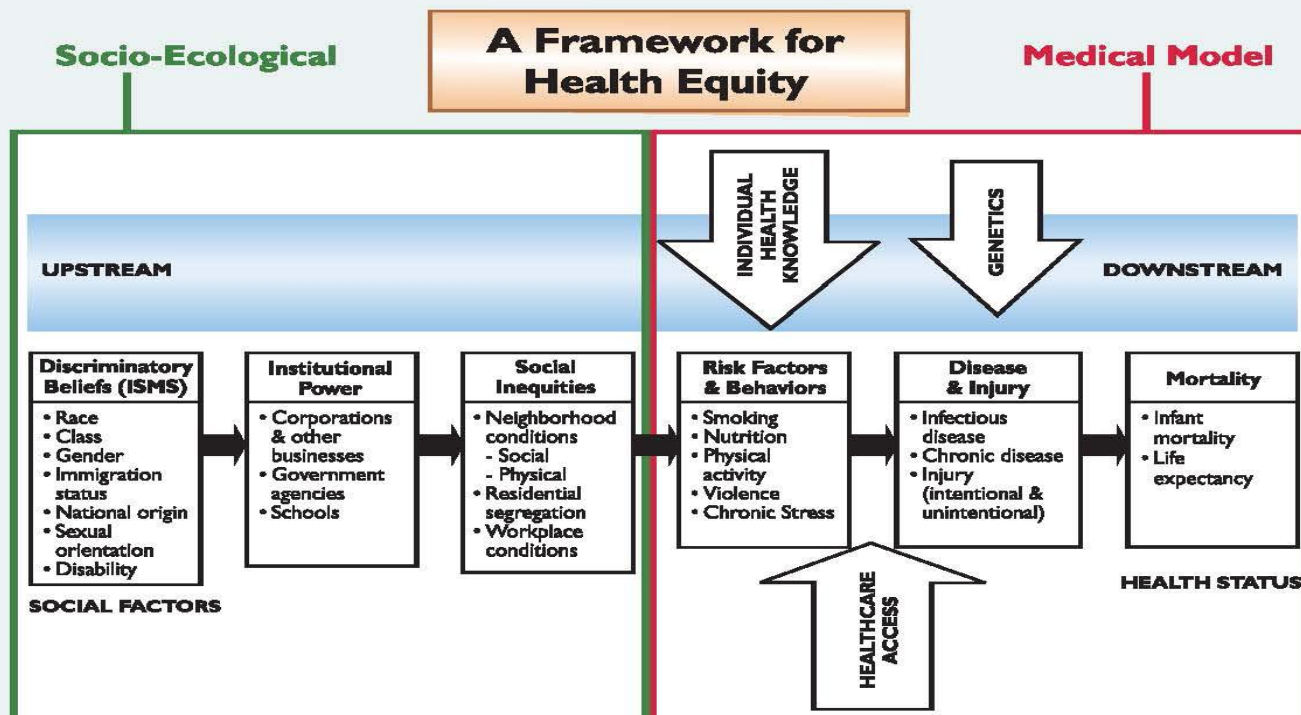


# Factors That Affect Health:



# How do we do our work through a health Equity lens?

FIGURE 1. A FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH EQUITY



# Equity Lens

Understanding the social, political, and environmental contexts of a program, policy, or practice to evaluate and assess the unfair benefits and/or burdens within a society or population.



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"Hmmm. That's kind of a real toughie."

**Figure 1.2: Growing Communities: Social Determinants, Behavior, and Health**

*Our environments cultivate our communities and our communities nurture our health.*

**When inequities are high and community assets are low, health outcomes are worst.**



**When inequities are low and community assets are high, health outcomes are best.**

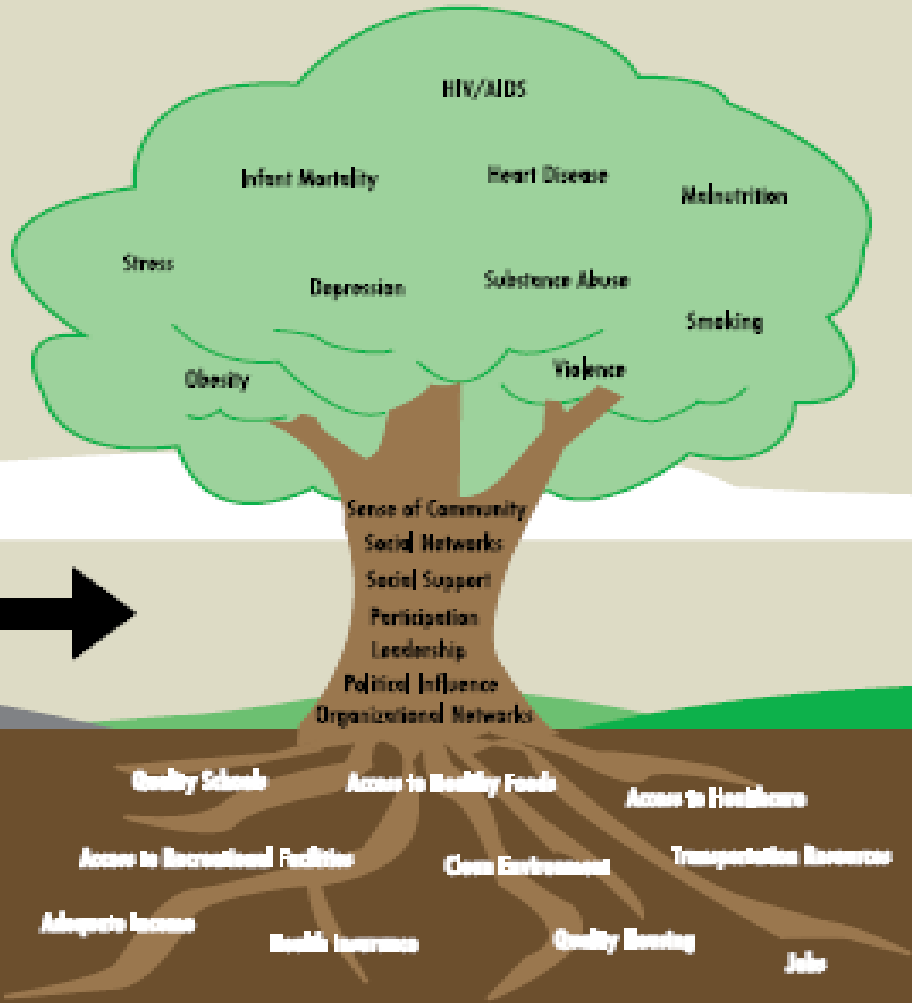


Figure adapted from Anderson et al, 2003; Marmoeetal, 1999; and Wilkinson et al, 2003.<sup>39-41</sup>

# How do we do this?

Entails focused and ongoing societal efforts

- To address avoidable inequalities
- By assuring the conditions for optimal health for all groups
- Particularly for those that have experienced historical or contemporary injustices or socioeconomic disadvantage



# Social Determinants of Equity

- Systems of Power
- Structures ( who, what, when and where)
- Policies ( written how)
- Practices and norms ( unwritten how, unwritten rules)
- Values (why)





# ACTIVITY 1

# MY FLOWER POT

- Please choose one of the following pots (announce your pot number):



POT 1



POT 2



POT 3

# Activity 1

- My Flower Pot



POT<sub>1</sub>



POT<sub>2</sub>



POT<sub>3</sub>

# Activity 1

- My Flower Pot



POT<sub>1</sub>



POT<sub>3</sub>

# Post Flower Pot Activity

- Flower Pot 1 is the best!! It can be assumed that red flowers are seemingly better than dark pink dark
- Flower Pot 2 How did you feel when you were immediately eliminated from the game?
- Flower Pot 3 Who/What controlled its growth?



POT<sub>1</sub>



POT<sub>3</sub>

# How do we get started?



# Who should be at the table







# Starting our list

# Community Partners

- Faith based organizations
- Homeless shelters
- Community-based organizations
- Non-profits and for-profits
- Mental health centers
- Substance abuse centers
- Business Sector/Commerce
- Civic and social organizations
- Local health care system
- Social Service agencies
- Law enforcement first responders
- Transportation
- City/local officials
- Education/Schools
- Urban Planning and Built environment
- Demographics reflecting your community
- Local champion lay community leaders



# How do we start addressing equity

We must look both internally and externally and ask ourselves:

- What structural or institutional barriers, policies, norms and values are operating here?
- Which of those if any are perpetuating a condition(s)?
- What is present and what is lacking?
- Are we partnering around the issues and conditions of people lives?

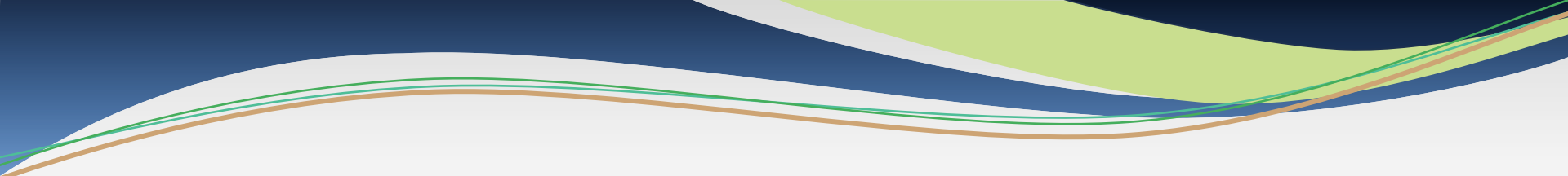


# **Activity 2**

## **Small Group Exercise**

# A Health Equity Approach

- Establish an Institutional Commitment to Advance Health Equity
- Where Possible, Align Funding Decisions with Your Commitment to Health Equity
- Be Deliberate in Recruiting and Building Staff Skills to Advance Health Equity
- Track and Capture Health Equity Efforts in Training and Performance Plans
- Integrate Health Equity Into Your Services and Resources
- Establish Multi-Sector Collaborations and Relationships with Diverse Communities



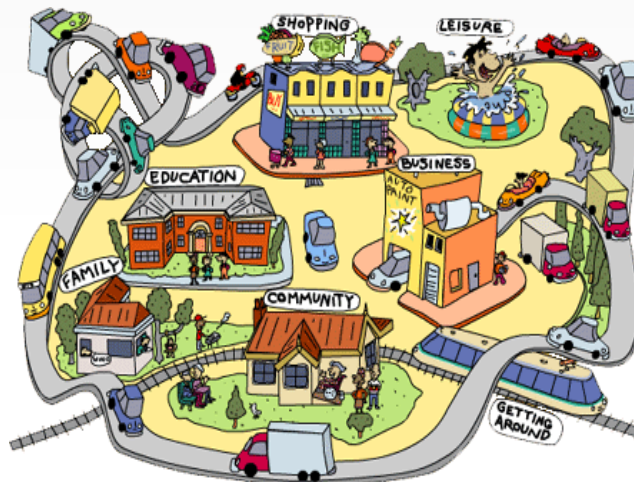
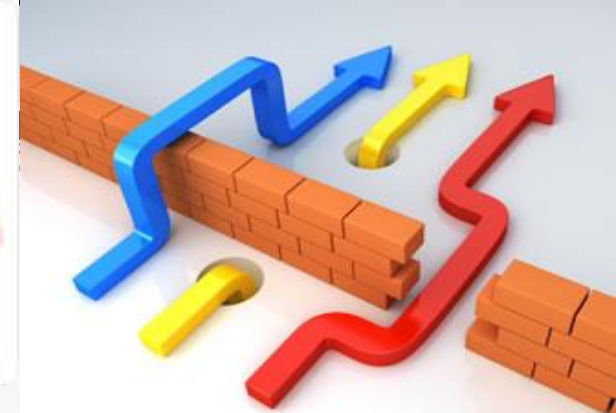
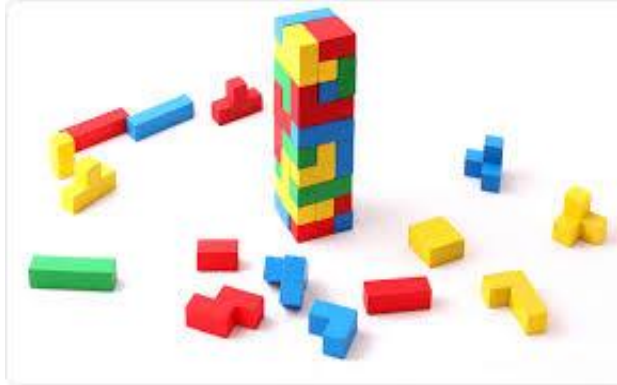
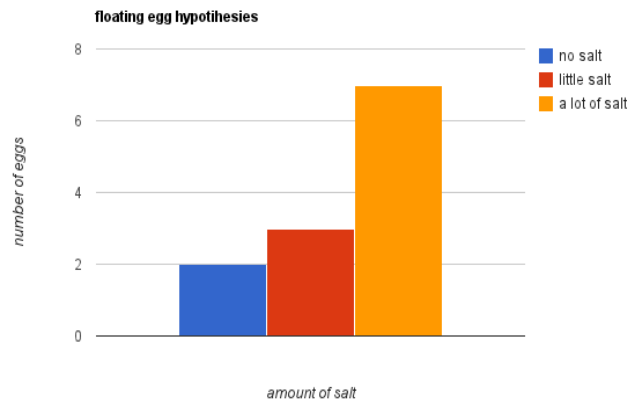
No significant health and wellness  
occurs without a significant relationship.

----Adapted Dr. James Comer





# **Let's Review: What do I need to know?**



# What you can do...

- Health Impact Assessments
  - Determine health affect of all policies and programs.
- Increase Awareness of health disparities and social determinants of health
- Work with the community and stakeholders to address Social Determinants of Health
- Increase data collection, especially in vulnerable populations.
- Listen actively - learn to listen for what is being said and not what you want to hear.
- Distinguish perspectives - consider various points of view.
- Acquire more training on health equity and cultural competency



# In Summary

- Health depends on much more than individual choice. We need to address the systemic “root causes” of health inequities
- System-level changes to reduce poverty, eliminate structural racism, improve income equality, increase educational opportunity, and fix the laws and policies that perpetuate structural inequities
- Working to tackle unemployment, concentrated poverty, and school dropout rates
- Residents, businesses, state and local government, and other local institutions working across multiple sectors



# In Summary

- Establish an Institutional Commitment to advance health equity
- Where possible align funding streams with the commitment to advance health equity
- Use appropriate tools to identify health inequities
- Identify appropriate variables to track populations experiencing inequities
- Include health equity indicators into performance monitoring systems

# Questions



# Resources

- The Center for Global Policy Solutions <http://healthequity.globalpolicysolutions.org/> (Accessed February 24, 2017)
- The National Association of County & City Health Officers (NACCHO)
- The Health Equity and Social Justice Toolkit for local health departments.
- <http://toolbox.naccho.org/pages/index.html> (Accessed January 9, 2017)
- National Collaborative for Health Equity (CHE) [www.nationalcollaborative.org/](http://www.nationalcollaborative.org/) (Accessed January 12, 2017)
- National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities.
- <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=1&lvlid=46> (Accessed January 12, 2017)
- The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) provides tools to help state-level leaders formulate and implement promising strategies. [www.astho.org/Programs/Health-Equity/](http://www.astho.org/Programs/Health-Equity/) (Accessed January 4, 2017)
- Build Healthy Places Networks. [www.buildhealthyplaces.org/resources/](http://www.buildhealthyplaces.org/resources/) Accessed January 4, 2017)



# Resources

- National Partnership to End Health Disparities [www.omhrc.gov/npa](http://www.omhrc.gov/npa)
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. Communities in action: Pathways to health equity. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
- Dr. Camara Jones, Dean Distinguished Lecture Series University of Kentucky October 8, 2017 <https://livestream.com/UKHealthCare/DDLS>
- Suggested Citation: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Division of Community Health. *A Practitioner's Guide for Advancing Health Equity: Community Strategies for Preventing Chronic Disease*. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services; 2013.
- [Healthy People 2020: Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Healthy People 2020: Health Disparities and Health Equity](#)
- RWJF's report on a new way to talk about SDOH: <http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/reports/2010/rwjf63023>
- <http://www.astho.org/Programs/Health-Equity/>

# Resources

- Prevention Institute, Health Equity and Prevention Primer, <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/tools/focus-area-tools/health-equity-toolkit.html>
- Unnatural Causes, <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org>
- World Health Organization, Closing the Gap in a Generation, [http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/)
- Families USA health Equity Resources Center, <http://familiesusa.org/issues/health-equity/resource-center/>
- (HRSA) Office of Health Equity, <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/ohe/>
- Louisville Metro Center for Health Equity, <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/health/equity/>
- Kentucky Office of Health Equity, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/OfficeofHealthEquity.htm>
- [www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/ohe](http://www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/ohe)
- A Practitioner's Guide for Advancing Health Equity: Community Strategies for Preventing Chronic Disease [www.cdc.gov/NCCDPHP/dch/pdf/HealthEquityGuide.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/NCCDPHP/dch/pdf/HealthEquityGuide.pdf) (Accessed January 9, 2017)



***Thank You!***

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